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JUL

DARKMAN™

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EYE OF DARKNESS

Dancin' in the Dark

DARKMAN CREATED BY SAM RAIMI

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SWEET.
TENDER.
HAPPY.
THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED, ISN'T IT? FOR JULIE TO BE HAPPY?
THAT'S WHY HE FORCED THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER.
THAT'S WHY HE MADE THIS HAPPEN.
IF ONLY THAT COULD BE HIM SHE WAS SMILING AT.
ME? SMILE AT YOU?
IN YOUR DREAMS, FREAK!
SHE'LL NEVER LOOK AT YOU THAT WAY AGAIN!
THAT'LL NEVER BE YOU!
NEVER!
IT COULD BE --!
I COULD MAKE A MASK! SHE'D NEVER HAVE TO --
NO!
WHAT AM I THINKING?!

ONCE, SHE LOVED HIM.
THAT WAS BEFORE HIS LIFE WAS STOLEN FROM HIM. BEFORE ROBERT DURANT TURNED HIM INTO A HIDEOUS FREAK --
-- ONLY ABLE TO MASQUERADE AS A HUMAN FOR 99 MINUTES AT A TIME.
I'M SORRY, JULIE!
I WON'T DO IT!
ALLARD PARK. THE NEXT AFTERNOON.
IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1849 AS A PUBLIC PARK -- BUT LIKE MOST THINGS OF VALUE IN THIS CITY --
PRIVATE KEEP OUT
-- IT HAS BECOME A HAVEN FOR THE PRIVILEGED.
THERE'S SO MUCH I'D LIKE TO DO, CLAUDE --
-- SO MANY AVENUES OF RESEARCH TO EXPLORE -- SO MANY... FASCINATING POSSIBILITIES.
BUT THAT HOSPITAL -- WORKING THERE IS STIFLING. ALL THESE PATHETIC SICK PEOPLE -- THEY'RE A DRAIN ON MY RESEARCH TIME!
YES, YES... I SYMPATHIZE, HERMIONE.
I DON'T THINK YOU SEE MY DIFFICULTY, HOWEVER.
WITH THE DEATH OF SANFORD LOWELL*, I'VE BECOME THE MAJOR FIGURE IN THE METROPOLITAN CLUB --
-- A POSITION I COULD LOSE UNLESS I CONSOLIDATE MY POWER SWIFTLY.
MORE THAN ANYTHING, I NEED INFLUENCE WITH THE CITY'S MOBS.
I'M ALSO CONCERNED THAT THIS "DARKMAN" IS RUNNING AROUND UNCHECKED.
HE'S A LOOSE CANNON -- AND A DANGEROUS ONE.
SO, YOU SEE --
-- YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT MIRACLES I'VE BEEN ABLE TO WORK WITH OUR MUTUAL FRIEND.
*LAST ISSUE. -- F.N.

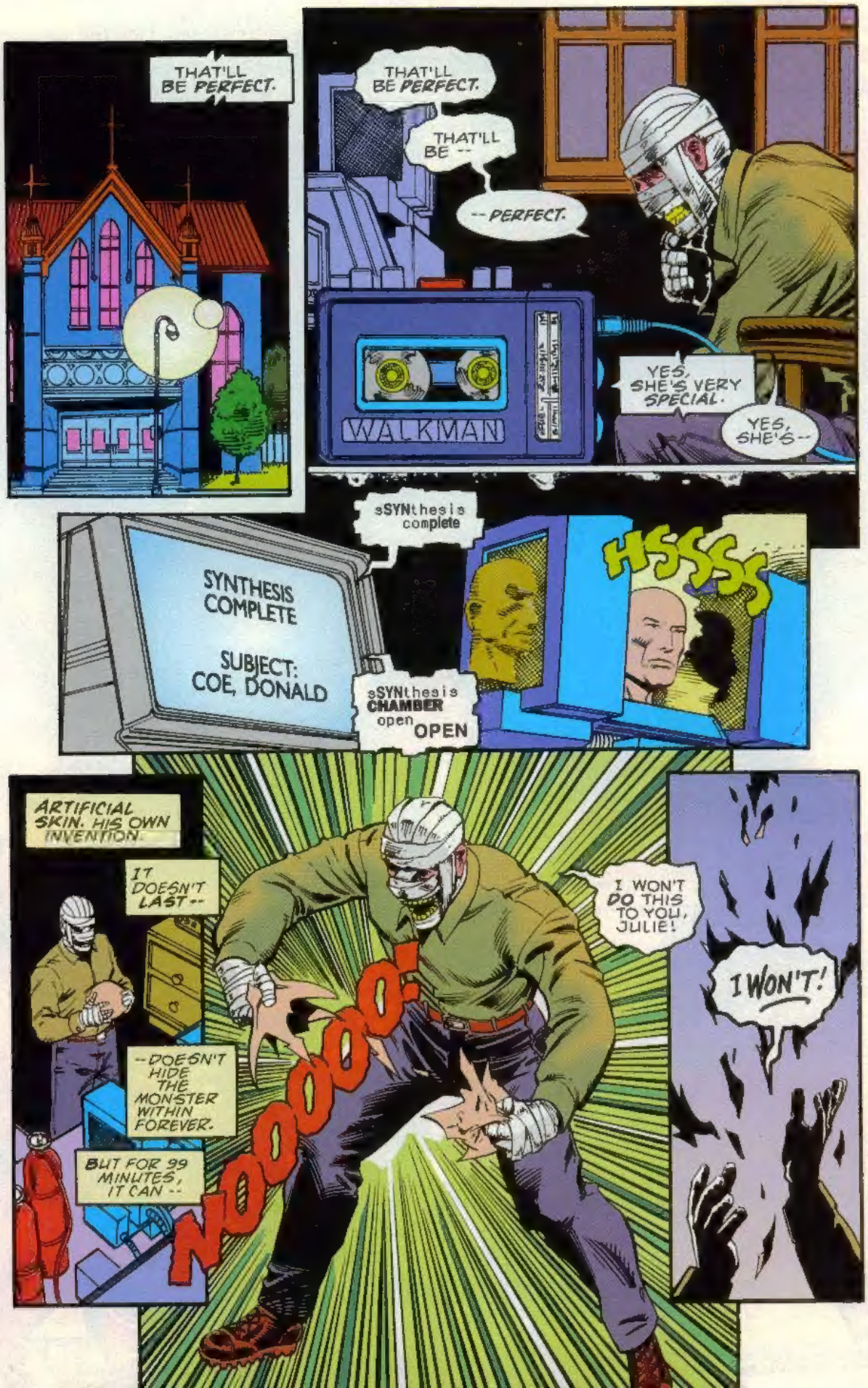
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO *TELL* YOU.
HE WAS IN A *HELICOPTER CRASH*, REMEMBER? HE HAS BURNS OVER NINETY PER CENT OF HIS BODY, AND THE *INTERNAL* DAMAGE--!
THAT BODY IS *RUINED*. IT WILL *NEVER* RECOVER.
CAN'T YOU -- I DON'T KNOW-- *CLONE* HIM OR SOMETHING?
DON'T BE SO *NAIVE*, CLAUDE.
OF *COURSE* I COULD CLONE HIM. I COULD EVEN FORCE THE NEW BODY'S GROWTH SO IT REACHED ADULTHOOD IN A MATTER OF *WEEKS*.
BUT CLONES COME COMPLETE WITH THEIR OWN *BRAINS*-- AND UNLESS WE COULD DUPLICATE EVERY DETAIL OF HIS *UP-BRINGING*--
I SEE.
AND A *BRAIN TRANS-PLANT*--?
PLEASE! MY NAME IS *WEST*, CLAUDE--
--NOT *FRANKEN-STEIN*!
THE PROCEDURE'S *INTERESTING*, BUT TOO *RISKY*. HE'D DIE ON THE TABLE AND YOU'D HAVE LOST HIM FOR--
VAROOM! VROOM!
--*Eh?!*
SKRT

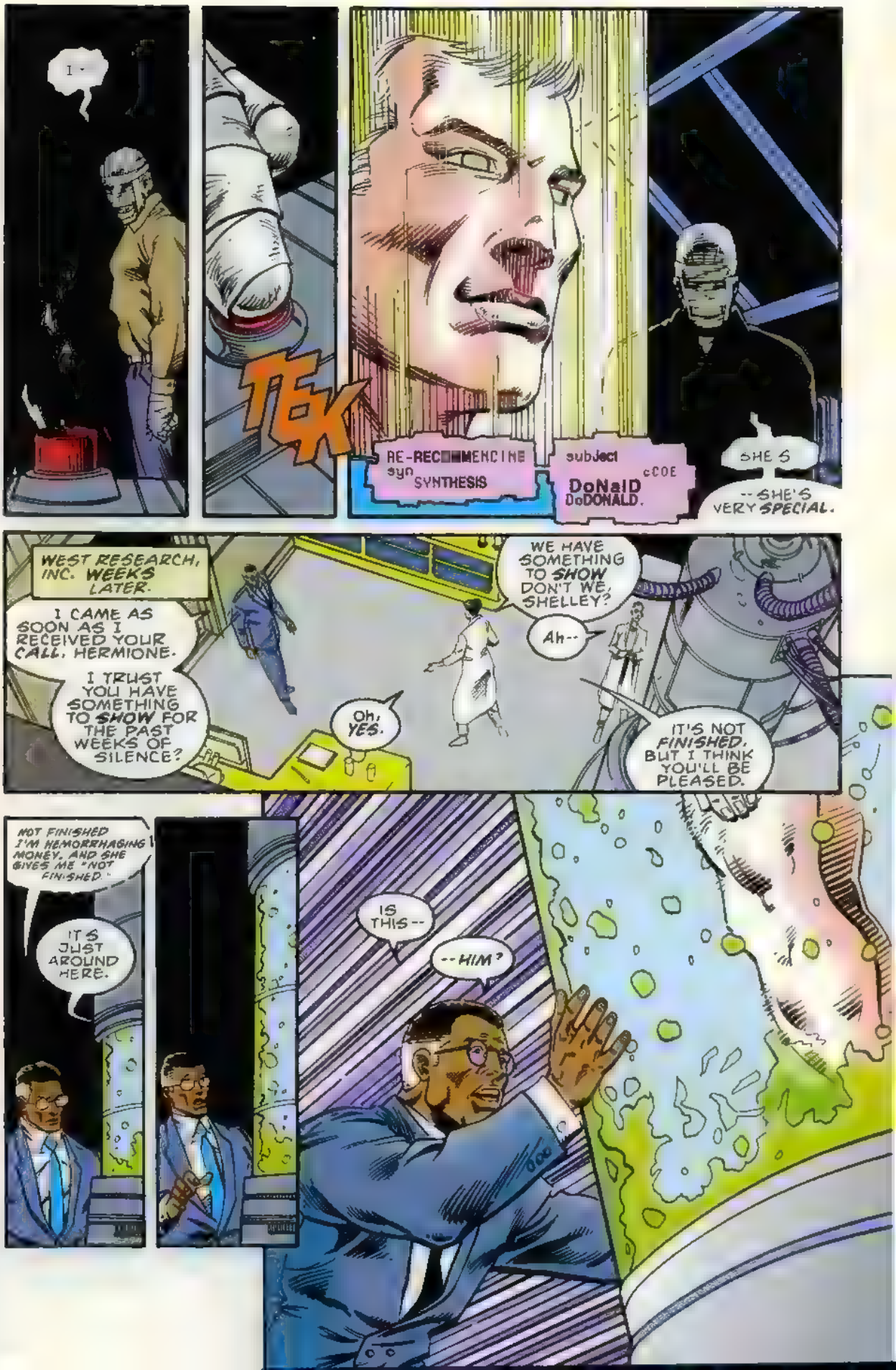
THAT'S IT!
IT'S FEASIBLE -- COMPLICATED -- BUT WITH THE NEW MICROPROCESSOR TECHNOLOGY --
I KNOW WHAT TO DO, CLAUDE. IT'LL COST, THOUGH.
HEY!
MONEY IS NO OBJECT.
YOUR OWN LAB-- WHATEVER IT TAKES--
HA!
GIMME MY CAR BACK!
VRAAAAA
I TAKE IT BACK, CLAUDE. FROM NOW ON --
-- JUST CALL ME DOCTOR FRANKEN-STEIN!
THREE SHOTS: FULL-FACE, PROFILE AND THREE-QUARTER VIEW. ALL LIT BY THE MORNING SUN. AND DONALD COE SUSPECTS NOTHING.
DARKMAN CAN TELL.
WAKE UP, DOCTOR COE! LOOK AROUND!
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
TUM TUM TE TUM MY DEAR, TO BREATHE AN ATMOSPHERE THAT HMM HM HMM OF CLASS...

HMMM HMMM HMMM HM WITH YOU IT'S A LOVELY DAY
YES-- SEWARD FLORISTS?
THIS IS DONALD COE -- I OPENED AN ACCOUNT WITH YOU?
BELL
YES, SAME ADDRESS--
Uh -- I'M NOT SURE. WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST..?
THAT SOUNDS GREAT--
-- WHITE ONES IT IS, THEN --
--THAT'LL BE PERFECT--
-- YES, SHE'S VERY SPECIAL --!
CLIK
I'M SORRY, JULIE..!

MURNAU-SPRANG MEDICAL CENTER
WHAT--?!
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DENY TREATMENT TO PATIENTS WHO CAN'T PAY?
BUT THAT'S CONTRARY TO OUR HIPPO-CRATIC--
TELL ME ABOUT IT, DOC. US COPS-- WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP EN-FORCE IT.
THEY'RE TRYIN' TO "ENCOURAGE" THE HOMELESS TO QUIT SQUATTING IN THAT RIVERBANK SHANTYTOWN. THEY DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO 'EM--
-- LONG AS THEY LEAVE.
KELSO'S GOT IT RIGHT, DR. C...
...MEMO WENT AROUND THIS MORNING, STRAIGHT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
THIS IS UN-CONSCION-ABLE! I'LL BRING IT UP AT THE NEXT STAFF MEETING--
--SEE WHAT THE OTHER DOCTORS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT--
--JULIE!
DONALD!
YOUR BEAUTY SHINES OUT LIKE A BEACON OF HOPE TO A DROWNING MAN.
AWW-- I BET YOU SAY THAT TO ALL THE GALS.
CLK WHRRRR
GOT IT.
THE FIRST PROFILE SHOT DIDN'T COME OUT.
HE HAD TO GET ANOTHER ONE.
HE HAD TO.

Ah.
CELLULAR FISSION PROCEEDING STEADILY.
NINETY-SEVEN PER CENT PROBABILITY THAT VIABLE CLONE ORGANISM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.
GOT YOUR COAT HANGER, SHELLEY?
DOCTOR WEST, I--
JUST KIDDING. BRING THE ACCELERATOR OVER -- WE'RE FAR ENOUGH ALONG TO START SPIKING THE HORMONE BATH.
Ah -- CONSIDERING THE ILLEGALITY OF MUCH OF THIS PROCEDURE -- Ah -- I DON'T SUPPOSE A RAISE WOULD BE --?
YOU'LL TAKE WHAT YOU GET AND LIKE IT, DOCTOR SHELLEY. UNLESS YOU'D LIKE THE A.M.A. TO KNOW YOU'RE PRACTICING WITHOUT A LICENSE AGAIN?
Ah -- THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY--Ah--
GOOD.
SET IT TO FOUR POINT THREE, FOUR POINT SIX AND TWO POINT TWO SEVEN...
...AND HIT IT, WOULD YOU?
WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO.


THAT'LL BE PERFECT.
THAT'LL BE PERFECT.
THAT'LL BE --
-- PERFECT.
WALKMAN
YES, SHE'S VERY SPECIAL.
YES, SHE'S--
sSYNthesis complete
SYNTHESIS COMPLETE
SUBJECT: COE, DONALD
HSSSS
sSYNthesis CHAMBER open OPEN
ARTIFICIAL SKIN. HIS OWN INVENTION.
IT DOESN'T LAST--
--DOESN'T HIDE THE MONSTER WITHIN FOREVER.
BUT FOR 99 MINUTES, IT CAN--
NOOOOO!
I WON'T DO THIS TO YOU, JULIE!
I WON'T!


I-
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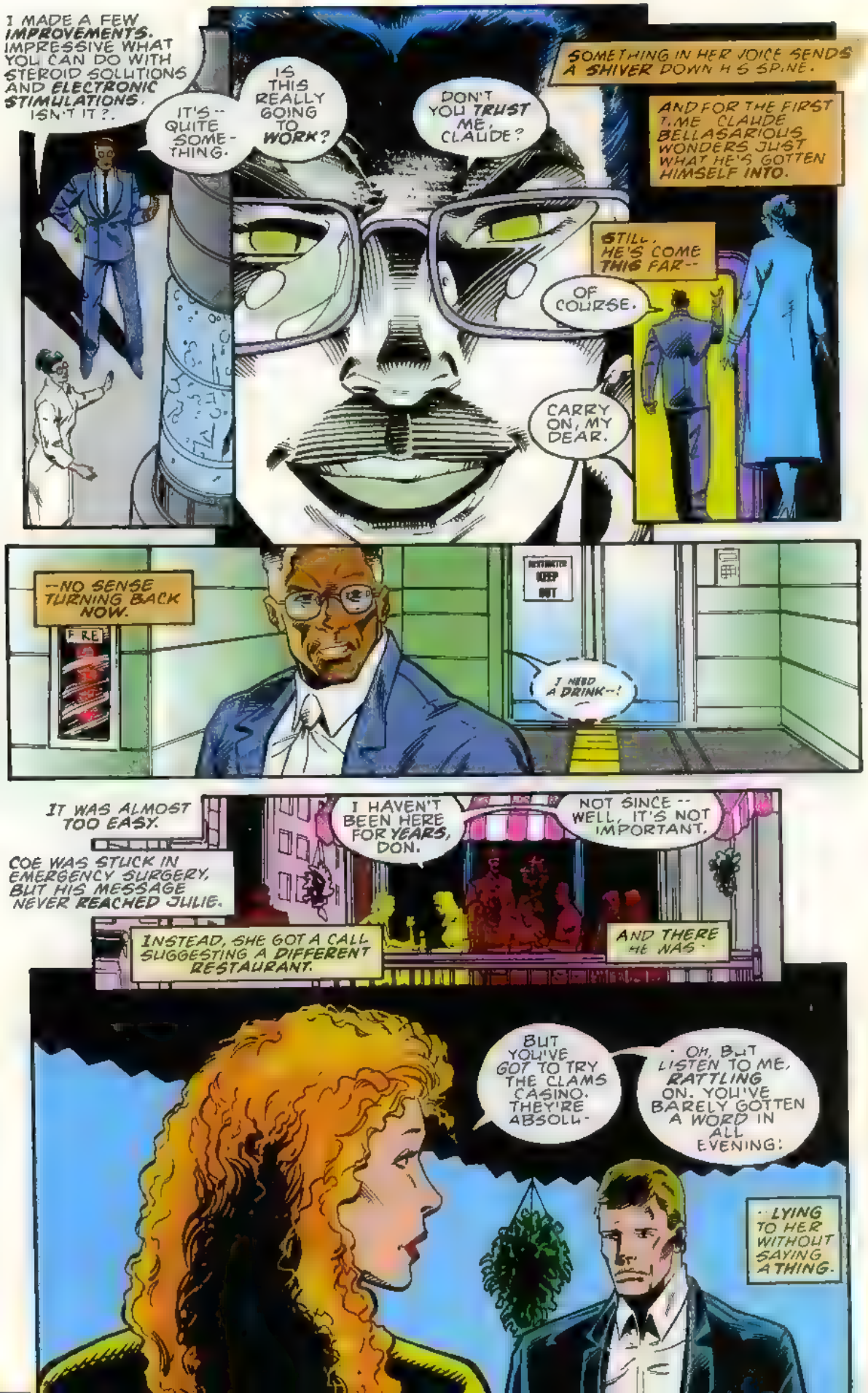
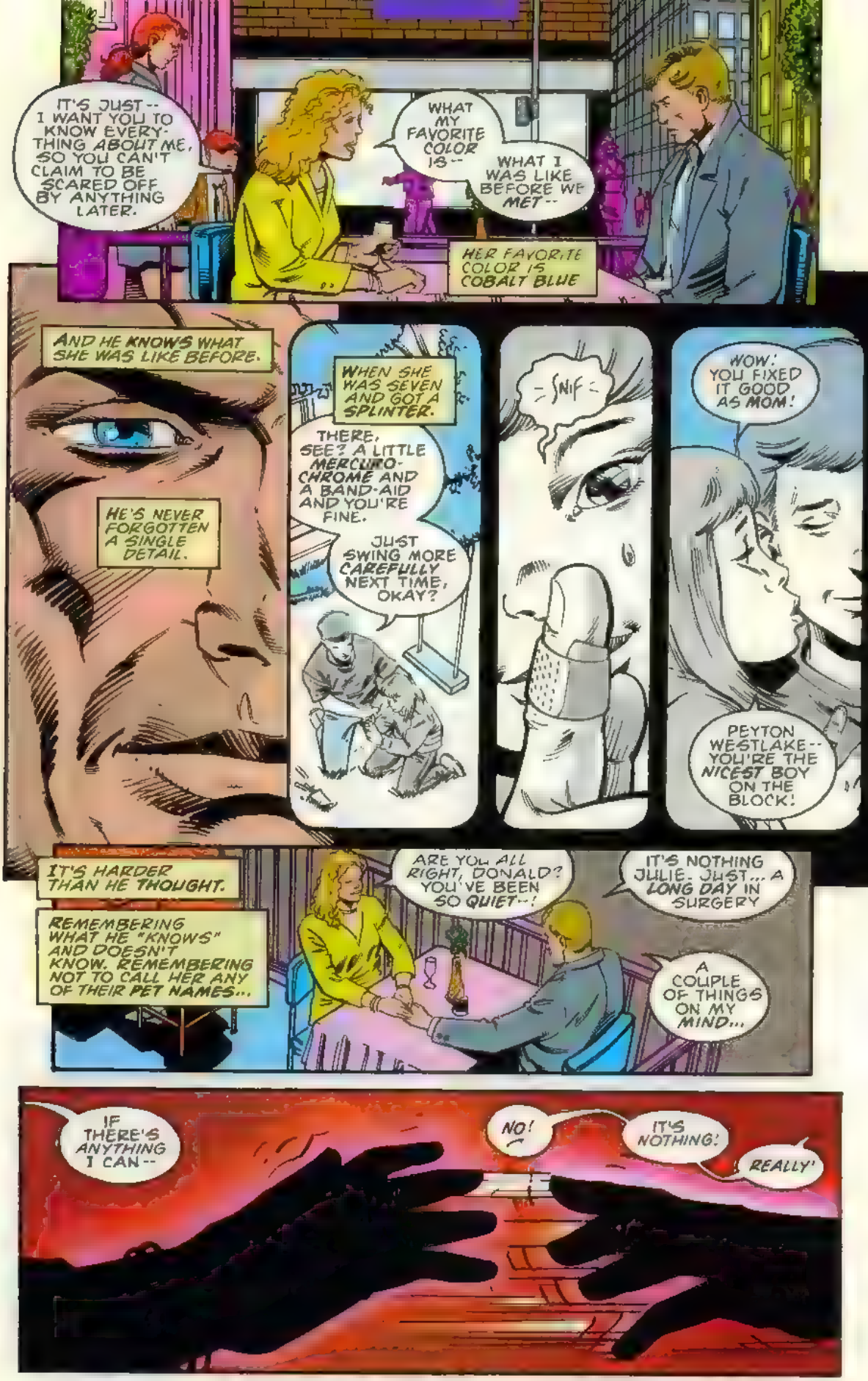
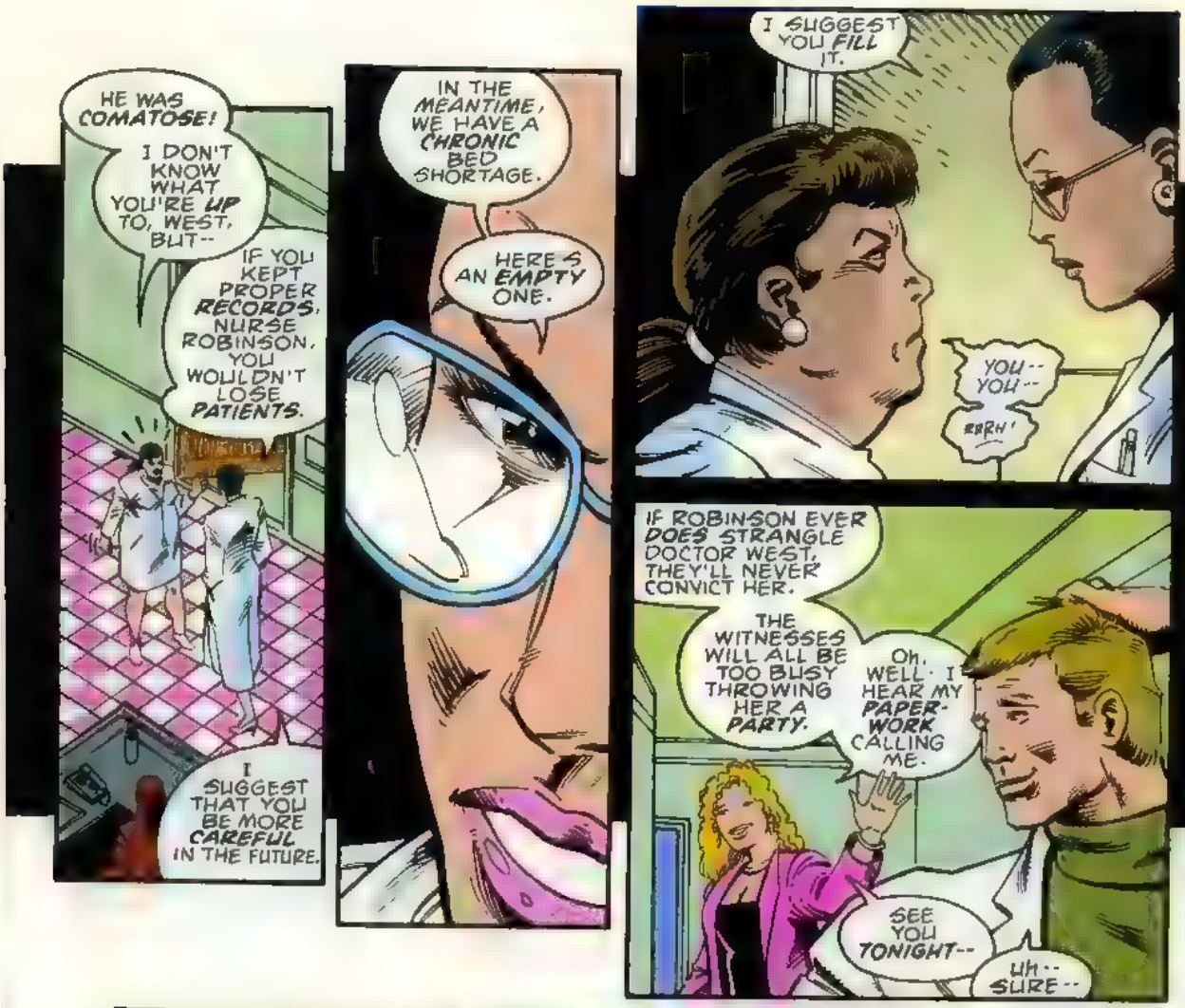
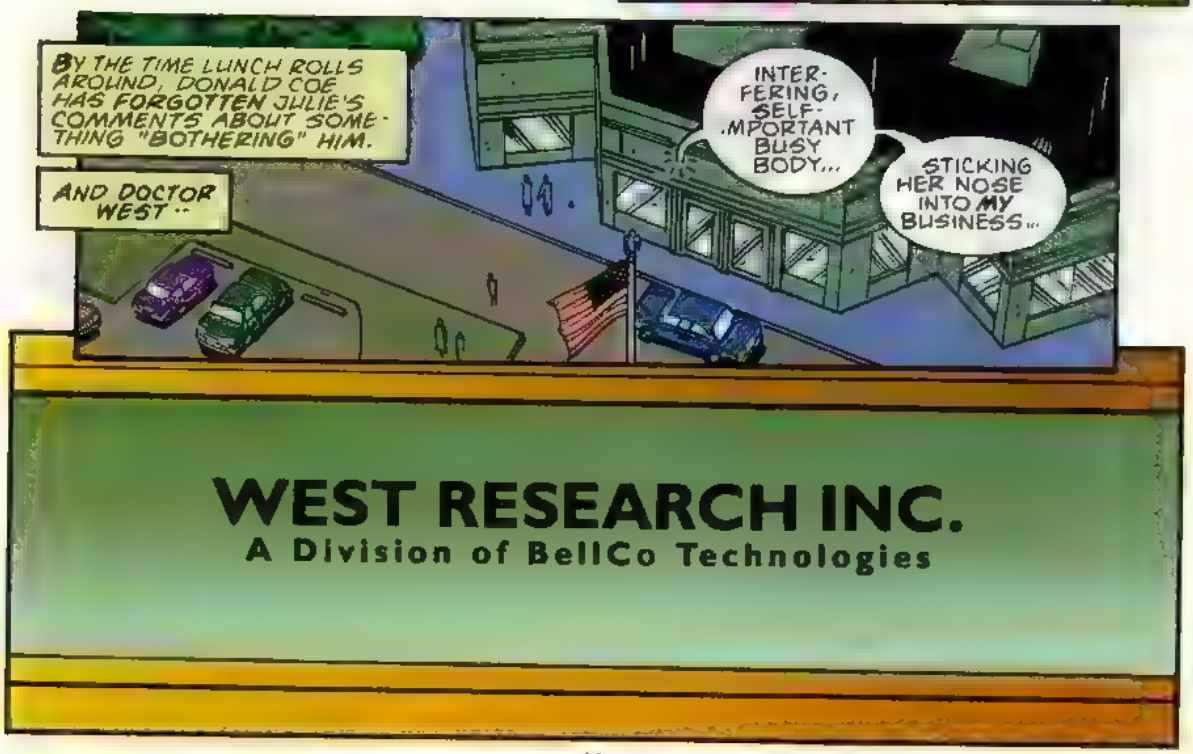
DoDONALD.
code
SHE'S
--SHE'S VERY SPECIAL.
WEST RESEARCH, INC. WEEKS LATER.
I CAME AS SOON AS I RECEIVED YOUR CALL, HERMIONE.
I TRUST YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR THE PAST WEEKS OF SILENCE?
OH, YES.
WE HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW DON'T WE, SHELLEY?
Ah--
IT'S NOT FINISHED, BUT I THINK YOU'LL BE PLEASED.
NOT FINISHED I'M HEMORRHAGING MONEY, AND SHE GIVES ME "NOT FINISHED."
IT'S JUST AROUND HERE.
IS THIS --
--HIM?


I MADE A FEW IMPROVEMENTS. IMPRESSIVE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH STEROID SOLUTIONS AND ELECTRONIC STIMULATIONS. ISN'T IT?.
IT'S -- QUITE SOME-THING.
IS THIS REALLY GOING TO WORK?
DON'T YOU TRUST ME, CLAUDE?
SOMETHING IN HER JOICE SENDS A SHIVER DOWN H S SPINE.
AND FOR THE FIRST TIME CLAUDE BELLASARIOUS WONDERS JUST WHAT HE'S GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO.
STILL, HE'S COME THIS FAR--
OF COURSE.
CARRY ON, MY DEAR.
--NO SENSE TURNING BACK NOW.
I NEED A DRINK--!
IT WAS ALMOST TOO EASY.
COE WAS STUCK IN EMERGENCY SURGERY, BUT HIS MESSAGE NEVER REACHED JULIE.
I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE FOR YEARS, DON.
NOT SINCE -- WELL, IT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
INSTEAD, SHE GOT A CALL SUGGESTING A DIFFERENT RESTAURANT.
AND THERE HE WAS.
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO TRY THE CLAMS CASINO. THEY'RE ABSOLU-
. OH, BUT LISTEN TO ME, RATTLING ON. YOU'VE BARELY GOTTEN A WORD IN ALL EVENING:
. LYING TO HER WITHOUT SAYING A THING.


IT'S JUST -- I WANT YOU TO KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT ME, SO YOU CAN'T CLAIM TO BE SCARED OFF BY ANYTHING LATER.
WHAT MY FAVORITE COLOR IS --
WHAT I WAS LIKE BEFORE WE MET --
HER FAVORITE COLOR IS COBALT BLUE
AND HE KNOWS WHAT SHE WAS LIKE BEFORE.
HE'S NEVER FORGOTTEN A SINGLE DETAIL.
WHEN SHE WAS SEVEN AND GOT A SPLINTER.
THERE, SEE? A LITTLE MERCURO-CHROME AND A BAND-AID AND YOU'RE FINE.
JUST SWING MORE CAREFULLY NEXT TIME, OKAY?
-SNIF-
WOW! YOU FIXED IT GOOD AS MOM!
PEYTON WESTLAKE -- YOU'RE THE NICEST BOY ON THE BLOCK!
IT'S HARDER THAN HE THOUGHT.
REMEMBERING WHAT HE "KNOWS" AND DOESN'T KNOW. REMEMBERING NOT TO CALL HER ANY OF THEIR PET NAMES...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DONALD? YOU'VE BEEN SO QUIET --!
IT'S NOTHING JULIE. JUST... A LONG DAY IN SURGERY
A COUPLE OF THINGS ON MY MIND...
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN --
NO!
IT'S NOTHING!
REALLY!

THE NEXT DAY DAWNS BRIGHT AND CLEAR AND JULIE HASTINGS HEART SINGS ON HER WAY TO WORK.
WHAT A DAY!
SO NICE, YOU'D ALMOST THINK IT WAS A POST-CARD--
-- NOT REAL AT ALL!
DON!
SAY. THERE'S THAT SMILE I WAS LOOKING FOR!
YOU SURE SHOOK THOSE COBWEBS OUT, DIDN'T YOU?
...COBWEBS?!
WHAT-EVER IT WAS THAT WAS BOTHER-ING YOU.
Um -- I'M NOT SURE WH
WHERE IS HE?! ARE YOU GONNA TELL ME, OR--
WHAT THE
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M SOMETHING STUCK TO YOUR SHOE, WEST!
THE JOHN DOE--
-- THE BURN PATIENT THAT WAS IN THERE!
HE WAS ONE OF YOURS--
SO
WHERE IS HE?
HE CHECKED OUT.


HE WAS COMATOSE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, WEST, BUT--
IF YOU KEPT PROPER RECORDS, NURSE ROBINSON, YOU WOULDN'T LOSE PATIENTS.
I SUGGEST THAT YOU BE MORE CAREFUL IN THE FUTURE.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE HAVE A CHRONIC BED SHORTAGE.
HERE'S AN EMPTY ONE.
I SUGGEST YOU FILL IT.
YOU-- YOU--
ERRH!
IF ROBINSON EVER DOES STRANGLE DOCTOR WEST, THEY'LL NEVER CONVICT HER.
THE WITNESSES WILL ALL BE TOO BUSY THROWING HER A PARTY.
Oh, WELL. I HEAR MY PAPER-WORK CALLING ME.
SEE YOU TONIGHT--
UH-- SURE--


BY THE TIME LUNCH ROLLS AROUND, DONALD COE HAS FORGOTTEN JULIE'S COMMENTS ABOUT SOMETHING "BOTHERING" HIM.
AND DOCTOR WEST--
INTERFERING, SELF-IMPORTANT BUSY BODY...
STICKING HER NOSE INTO MY BUSINESS...
WEST RESEARCH INC.
A Division of BellCo Technologies

ISN'T AT THE MEDICAL CENTER AT ALL.
I'M - Ah -- SURE SHE MEANT WELL --
SHUT UP, SHELLEY.
LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD SCALPEL.
Ah DOCTOR WEST--?
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
YES MA AM.
WHAP
IS IT STERILE?
YES. I Ah - SAW TO IT MYSELF.
GOOD.
STAND BACK, SHELLEY.
I TOLD YOU TO STAND BACK.

IT'S GETTING LATE
DONALD COE RUNS HIS MIND BACK, BUT THERE'S NO MISTAKE.
SHE SAID SHE'D MEET HIM HERE AT EIGHT-THIRTY. IT'S THE ONLY REVIVAL HOUSE IN CALIGARI SQUARE.
L'ENFANT DU PARADIS
7:15—9:00—10:45
Oh, WELL.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN STOOD UP.
—NOT SCARING ME OFF WITH THOSE LONG, BYRONIC SILENCES. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ATTRACTED TO MOODY MEN
—I DON'T KNOW. IT'S THE CHALLENGE, OR, SOMETHING.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WOULDN'T BE MORE COMFORTABLE ON THE COUCH...
...WITH ME?
SHE'S FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM HE CAN TELL.
NOT WITH HIM. WITH THE MASK
THE WIG
THE LIE.
FAKE! IMPOSTOR! YOU DON'T DESERVE HER!
YOU'RE NOT ME!
NOT ME!
Oh, PEYTON, HOW COULD YOU--?!

HE CAN JUST SEE THE WEDDING NOW.
ON THE ONE SIDE, THE BRIDE'S FAMILY --
-HER PARENTS, FLOWN IN FROM POUGHKEEPSIE. HER AUNT THELMA, WITH THAT REEDY VOICE AND THE CRACKED SMILE. HER SISTER, MARNIE.
AND, ON THE OTHER SIDE..
I HAVE TO GO.
HUH?
NOT SO FAST, DOCTOR. IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, I'M BETWEEN YOU AND THE DOOR.
AND YOU'RE NOT GETTING PAST ME.
JULIE !
WITHOUT PAYING A TOLL!

THE METROPOLITAN CLUB.
PURSUANT TO THE RIVER-BANK SOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.
I'M SURE YOU'RE AS EAGER AS I WAS TO GET IN ON THIS, AND I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.
I'M SEEING BIG THINGS HERE, BRUCE -- AT LEAST THREE HUNDRED CONDO UNITS, A CENTRAL HEALTH CLUB
... SHOPPING, RESTAURANTS. THE WHOLE DEAL.
THE SITE WILL BE SECURED IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS -- WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING SOME UN-DESIRABLES OUT.
SINCERELY YOURS, CLAUDE BELLA--
BRING
BELLA-SARIOUS.
HERMIONE WEST, CLAUDE, I'M DONE.
I'LL BE RIGHT OUT.
NO, NO -- I'M NOT AT THE LAB.
I'LL GIVE YOU THE ADDRESS...
THE TIME
HE OUGHT TO CHECK THE TIME.

MAYBE IN A MINUTE--
PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP
YOUR BEEPER, DON...
BEEPER--?
SSSSSS
THE ALARM!
NO!
DON--WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I--
I--
DON?

I'M SORRY, JULIE!
JULIE HASTINGS FEELS THE WORLD SHIFT AND TILT CRAZILY BENEATH HER.

IT WASN'T DON.
IT WAS--
IT WAS--

NO...

ELSEWHERE...
MISTER BELLA-SARIOUS.
THIS IS DURANT'S HOUSE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS CLOSED UP.
DOCTOR WEST IS IN THE STUDY, SIR.
SHE ASKED ME TO SEND YOU IN AS SOON AS YOU ARRIVED.
I KNOW THE WAY.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE BE--
--FORE...
KRAKABOOM
THIS IS WHAT HE PAID FOR.
CLAUDE BELLASARIOUS SWALLOWS DRILY AND TELLS HIMSELF AGAIN:
THIS IS WHAT HE PAID FOR.
CHK

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CLAUDE?
SEEN A GHOST?
NEXT
DEVIL IN THE DARK